

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /025 R

DRAFTED BY COM/OED/MEPD/JLSMITH/MJJ

APPROVED BY EB/OCA/REP/EMCKEON

COM/OED/MEPD/JMSANDS, DIRECTOR

COM/BIC/OIM (INFO)

EA/PRCM/RAHOLMES

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R 190015Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 090219

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, HK

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: SUBWAY

REF: HONG KONG 3964

1. APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT ON PROJECT, PARTICULARLY INFORMATION THAT THOMPSON TRIP STILL PENDING AND THAT COTTON AND RIDLEY ALSO PLANNING VISIT U.S. IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE ABLE PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, EARLIEST NOTIFICATIONS OF THEIR ITINERARIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. RE THOMPSON TRIP, WE NOTED EARLIER REPORT THAT HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WOULD BE FINANCING. WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH BANK OF AMERICA HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO WHICH WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO THOMPSON. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE MEETING AT BANK AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HE MIGHT WISH TO VISIT.

2. REPORT ON THOMPSON REMARKS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

WILL BE PASSED ON TO CAPABLE CONTRACTORS. HOWEVER, WE ARE PUZZLED BY STATEMENT THAT, "HE DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO VIEW UNCLASSIFIED

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OF SOME THAT U.S. CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WOULD NOT BE COMPE-

TITIVE AND THAT BRINGING EQUIPMENT INTO HONG KONG WOULD BE
A PROBLEM." SEVERAL COMPANIES BELIEVE THAT COST OF
SHIPPING EQUIPMENT TO HONG KONG WOULD BE MAJOR FACTOR IN

DETERMINING OVERALL COST ESTIMATES FOR BIDDING. IT IS A
FACT THAT THE U.S. IS FARTHER FROM HONG KONG THAN JAPAN,
KOREA, OR TAIWAN AND THAT OCEAN FREIGHT RATES ARE AT
LEAST PARTIALLY DETERMINED BY DISTANCE. IN ANY CASE,
CONGEN WILL BE INFORMED OF ANY NEW INTEREST BY
CONSTRUCTORS HERE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE090219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OED/MEPD/JLSMITH/MJJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750138-0422
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750434/aaaabfjc.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HONG KONG 3964
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS: SUBWAY
TAGS: BEXP, HK
To: HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006